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A SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY OF WHITEHALL,

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS.

A DISCOURSE

DELIVERED ON THE 27TH OF JUNE, 1847.

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**By Rev. Lewis Kellogg.**  
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BEING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MINISTRY IN THE PLACE.

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WHITEHALL:
S. B. FAIRMAN, PRINTER, CHRONICLE OFFICE.
1847.

NOTE.

Many of the notes of this discourse have been added since a copy was requested for publication. I wish to say to those into whose hands it may fall that for several of its statements I have been obliged to rely on verbal testimony, and if any one can furnish authentic corrections or additional facts of interest in the history of the place, I should be very glad to receive them. Hereafter they may be more prized than they are at present.

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DISCOURSE.

DEUTERONOMY, XXXII: 7. "Remember the days of old."

God's ancient people were required to search out, record, and transmit their own history, not to gratify idle curiosity or feed national pride, but to mark in that history the hand of God, to learn from it His character and their duty, and draw incentives to fidelity in His service.

This is the true "philosophy of history." With this view historical facts may be an appropriate pulpit theme. A century ago the forests of this region echoed with the hostile cannon of the two most powerful nations of Europe. The ledge on the lake shore about a mile north of this place, well known by the designation of "Put's rock" is a monument of the carnage of that conflict.*

To one seeking for accurate historical information it is annoying to find such looseness in giving localities, scenery, and facts, in some of our early histories. For example Cutter in his biography of Putnam, says he was sent to South Bay at the foot of Lake George. Mr. Headley, following doubtless other historians, says Putnam's position was on Woodcreek near where it falls into the lake; but no such scenery as he describes is to be found on Woodcreek, at least for several miles from the lake, to say nothing of the ludicrous idea of 500 men gliding in canoes up the falls at its mouth. Some apology for the confusion which the reader of history will find in giving localities in this region, exists in the fact that in early times the head of Lake Champlain was rather problematical. French historians fixed it at Ticonderoga. Some others seem to have placed it at the head of South Bay. Though I believe it has long been settled by geographers that the head of the lake is the harbor of Whitehall.

The true history of the affair of Put's rock, as nearly as I can learn from comparing authors and from tradition is as follows: In 1758 while Abercrombie lay at Fort Edward, a short time before his disastrous movement on Ticonderoga, he sent forward Putnam, then a Major in the English service, to watch the movements of the French. With 35 followers he came on to this place and selected as a favorable point for observation an elevated rock near the elbow that effectually commands the passage of the lake. Here he erected a parapet of stone 30 feet in length, and to perfect his concealment covered the naked rock between it and the lake with pine bushes so placed as to resemble a natural growth. Behind this he lay watching for the movements of the enemy. On the evening of the fourth day he learned from his sentinels that canoes filled with soldiers were coming round the bend near the outlet of South Bay. He immediately drew all his men behind the breast work and

Within the memory of some of our citizens the whole brow of the hill, east of Church street, and south of high street, was enclosed by an embankment which formed the base of a picket fort, said to have been constructed during that war. Within that enclosure was a large block house, erected near the close of the last century and furnished with port-holes. Within that edifice some now among us have listened to orations on the anniversary of our independence, and occasionally to religious service on the Sabbath, conducted by some traveling missionary. It stood on or near the spot now occupied by the residence of J. H. Boyd Esq. The result of the contest which Americans usually designate "The French War," gave England the quiet possession of about five eighths of all North America. After its close this town was distributed in lots of 200 acres each as bounty land to the soldiers who had served in that war. Philip K. Skeene an English Major under half pay, it appears purchased for a trifle a large number of these grants and to perfect his title secured a Royal Patent. He effected a settlement at the head of navigation on Lake Champlain.— This settlement he called Skeenesborough which name it bore till after the war of the revolution. He subsequently secured more military grants, and obtained a second Patent. One of these covered 20,000

enjoined the most perfect silence. Soon the foremost canoe was in sight and shot quietly along a little past the ambuscade. Just then one of Putnam's men in adjusting his gun struck it slightly against a stone. In the stillness of a calm evening the sound was heard and instantly the oars of the advanced canoes were still. Those behind came up, and soon 500 warriors were lying in their frail vessels directly in front of the parapet. The full moon shone on the water and revealed every movement of that startled group, while they gazed up the bank in vain for any indication of a foe. There was a buzz of low hurried consultation among the leaders, suddenly cut short by a flash of fire arms the entire length of the parapet above. The aim of Putnam and his party had been fearfully precise. For one moment were heard groans and splashing in the water and all appeared confusion, but in an another each firelock was raised and a volley of 500 balls answered the fatal challenge of the 35. The shot of the French however was wasted on the rock and breast work and adjoining forest, while every discharge of Putnam's party told terribly among their unprotected adversaries. At length Molang the leader of the French and Indians dispatched a party down the lake a short distance with orders to effect a landing and charge in rear of the parapet. Putnam discovered the movement and sent 12 of his little band to beat them back: this they accomplished and the battle was continued till about daylight. It was then ascertained that a detachment of the French had effected a landing some distance below the place where the first attempt was made, and were moving up, and Putnam having nearly exhausted his ammunition hastily retreated to Fort Edward. His party had been so well protected that two only were wounded, while they had killed or wounded nearly 250 of their foes, an average of 6 or 7 to each individual of their own party.

acres and the other 9,000.* Skeene was a magistrate of the crown and sometimes received the title of Governor. He was the owner of several slaves. His residence was a stone building nearly opposite the present dwelling house of Joseph Jillson on Williams street. He erected a stone edifice 130 feet long on the place now occupied as a garden by the family of the late Judge Wheeler. It was designed for a military garrison, but I am not aware that it was ever used as such unless during the short time Burgoyne's army lay here in 1777. Its walls, or portions of them, were standing within the recollection of many of our citizens.† Near the east end was an arched gateway, the keystone of which may now be seen in the north basement wall of the Baptist Church. It bears his initials P. K. S. and the date 1770.

On the 9th of May 1775—the day on which Ethan Allen and his followers left Castleton to surprise and capture Ticonderoga—a small party of provincials from Connecticut left the same place to secure the possession of Skeenesborough. This was the first aggressive movement of the colonists in the revolutionary war, being nearly six weeks before the battle of Bunker's hill. This place was secured without opposition. Skeene was absent or concealed and they pillaged his house for supplies.‡

I have had an account of this expedition from a son of one of the party, and with it the well known story that they found the body of Skeene's wife in the cellar, where it was said to have been preserved by him for several years, to secure an annuity devised to her "while she remained above ground."|| They took the body and buried it in the rear of the dwelling. Skeene retired to Canada and ultimately joined the army under Burgoyne. The possession of this place was indispensable to the command of the Lake—an object of great importance to the colonies—and Gen. Schuyler was ordered to repair the public works. A garrison was stationed here, and in 1776 vessels and bateaux were constructed and a little fleet fitted out in our harbor which was put under the

* The date of these Patents I have not learned, and are not able to say which was first obtained—together they embraced the whole of the present town of Whitehall except 4000 acres on its eastern border.

† A portion of it was appropriated to the storage of Agricultural products, and it was called Skeene's Barn.

‡ Some accounts say he was captured. I think this is a mistake.

|| I believe the substance of this story to be authentic, and I notice it as an incident in the early history of the place illustrating human cupidity and fraud.

command of Arnold.* On the night of July 5th 1777, the Americans were driven from Ticondoroga. They placed their stores and baggage in bateaux and sent them under a small convoy to this place. The embarkation was discovered by the light of a building recklessly fired by the retreating troops, and the British dispatched two Frigates and several gun boats in pursuit. Gen. Mattoon, late of Amherst Mass., was a subaltern in the convoy and from him I have had a minute account of the adventure. Before they reached the landing their pursuers were in sight and they hastily left their boats and dispersed. He thought the number of houses here at that time did not exceed four. One of these, whose inmates appeared to be French, he entered and called for refreshments, but before he could partake them a cannon ball from one of the pursuing frigates entered the house, crushed the table and scattered the refreshments over the room. To one or two of the bateaux matches were applied by the Americans as they retired, and they were blown up. The remainder with the stores were all captured in our harbor and destroyed or appropriated by the enemy.

Burgoyne immediately moved on to this place with the main body of his army. He lay here two or three weeks constructing a road through to Fort Ann,† arranging baggage trains, advancing his heavy artillery, &c., in preparation for moving on to Fort Edward. During his stay Burgoyne and his staff were entertained by Skeene at his own house, and the tents of his bannered host, thus far triumphant, whitened the spot where we now so peacefully worship, spreading over the entire eminence from Church street west to the base of the mountain.

Skeene being well acquainted with the country was sent out from Fort Edward with the detachment to Bennington and was in the battle at that place. I have been told by one who was there, that being personally known to many of the Americans, they made a great effort to capture him alive, though with no design of mercy.‡ The capture of Burgoyne at Schuylerville thoroughly crushed the power of the English

* The fleet of Arnold on Lake Champlain when largest consisted of three Schooners, two Sloops, three Galleys and eight Bateaux, carrying in all 70 guns. With this he had a fierce encounter with the British in considerably larger force, under Valcour Island a little above Plattsburgh.

†By the order of Schuyler the bridges south of this place had all been torn up and forest trees felled across the route the whole distance to Fort Ann to impede the enemy's progress.

‡It is said that to effect their object they shot four horses from under him, but mounting a fifth he made his escape, though the horse that bore him off soon died of his wounds.

and their adherents in this quarter. A detachment of the American forces was stationed at the head of Lake George whose scouts kept a regular watch over this place, but I am not aware that it was the scene of any important incident from this period to the close of the war. Skeene was obliged to return to England and his house was burnt, it is said, by his own direction to prevent its passing into the hands of the disloyal and rebellious Americans.*

His lands were confiscated and sold by the State. The purchasers were John Williams of Salem, in this county, Joseph Stringham and John Murray. The two latter subsequently transferred their title to Gen. Williams,—Mr. Stringham in 1802, and Mr. Murray in 1803.

In 1788 the town of Whitehall was organized in the county that four years before had received the name of the immortal leader of our revolutionary struggle. There is one resident of our village who has been here since 1790.† He thinks the number of houses at that time did not exceed 8—four having been added in the thirteen years preceding. In 1812 this place again became the scene of military operations. The block house within the lines of the old fort was furnished with artillery and garrisoned for the defence of the place, and barracks were erected on the brow of the hill west of church street, portions of which are still standing. After the battle of Plattsburgh, September 11, 1814, the naval armament of the lake, with the vessels captured from the British in that engagement were anchored in our harbor. It was at that period the entrenchments and magazine were constructed, the remains of which are still seen on the island a few hundred yards north of the village.‡ The remains of both fleets which thundered defiance and launched destruction at each other with such fury off Cumberland head now repose quietly together and mingle their decaying fragments in the lake a short distance below.

The growth of the village for several years appears to have been inconsiderable. In 1816 the building now occupied by T. Vaughn was erected with a brick front.|| There was not at that time a brick building in the place. In 1818 there were two. The first Steamboat on the lake was launched in 1809. The canal was completed through to

*Would it be very unreasonable to suppose it was done by Americans in commemoration of the service it had rendered their foes?

†Gideon Taft, Esq.

‡Near Cook's Steam Mill.

||By Capt. Arch'd Smith.

Fort Edward in the autumn of 1819 and went into operation the following spring. In 1820 the charter was obtained under which our village is organized. Since that time the growth of the place has been constant though not rapid. It was not till 1824 that the canal was finished through to Troy. In that year the number of houses, stores &c. in Whitehall are set down at 70. In 1828 the public water-works were constructed—an event well worthy of being chronicled, not so much for its magnitude as its salutary results. The introduction of pure mountain water has doubtless done more to promote the health, and lengthen the lives of our citizens, than all the drugs ever administered in the place. A charter for the Bank of Whitehall was obtained in 1829 but its conditions not being then met, it was renewed and the bank went into operation in 1831. Our Post Office was established not far from 1796.*—As early as 1822 the first newspaper was issued in the place. It was sustained but a short time. Two or three others were afterwards started which failed for want of support. The oldest paper now published in the village is the Chronicle, which was established in June 1840. We have at the present time two weeklies and one tri-weekly. I have no means of ascertaining the population of the village separate from that of the town till 1835. It was then not far from 1500. In 1840 it was 2000, in 1845 2500.

I pass now to some events in the history of this congregation. The timber for this church edifice was collected by Gen. Williams in 1806. It was deposited on the hill two miles east of the village,† that being then considered the most eligible site in the vicinity for a church.—Gen. Williams died before its erection and a tablet to his memory is now standing in its west wall. A year or two after his death his widow and son Col. John Williams now living in Salem removed the materials to the spot now occupied as a burying ground on Williams street, where it was completed and presented to the society with a conditional grant of a lot of land from which was ultimately realized the sum of 2000 dollars. The church was taken down in 1826 and reconstructed on its present site. It was enlarged in 1838 and the lecture room was added in 1842. The house has stood from its first erection about 40

*In some printed document this place is named as one of the first three Post Offices established in this State. This might have been the case in establishing a post route from New York to Montreal or Quebec when they were all British colonies.

†Just above the present turnpike gate.

years. It was a gratuity to the society and with it property enough to defray the expense of its removal, enlargement and lecture room.

In 1810, as nearly as I have been able to ascertain the date, a church was organized in this village by the Associate Reformed Presbyterians, and Rev. Mr. White was settled as their Pastor. We have no records of that church in our possession. It is said to have contained six male and ten or twelve female members. Mr. White left in 1812, after which there was no stated preaching in the place for six or eight years. The Associate Reformed church was finally disbanded, and the present church was organized, chiefly from its remaining officers and members, on the 18th of Sept. 1819 by Rev. Dr. Blatchford of Lansingburgh. Of the remnants of the previous church there were five male and nine female members who entered the new organization. There were received at the same date by profession two, and by letter two, so that the new church at its first communion numbered eighteen members, seven of whom were males. Of these there remain two females who have never changed their relation and are now resident members of the church.*

Two other females who had been dismissed have since returned and are now members of the church, though both, at present, are non-residents. Two are members of other churches, and ten are dead.—The remaining two were dismissed years since, and of their subsequent history I know nothing.

We have tables exhibiting the statistics of the Church from year to year since its organization, from which I will give a few abstracts, with an epitome of its history as found in the records. For nearly three years after its formation, the church was without a pastor. The pulpit was supplied a short time by Mr. Peters, now Dr. Peters of Williamstown Mass., and Mr. Knox, who I believe subsequently settled at Newburgh N. Y. Rev. Ralph Robinson now of New Haven N. Y. preached in this place each alternate Sabbath during the year 1821.† This may be considered the first stated preaching ever enjoyed after the removal of Mr. White, the previous supplies having remained at most but a few Sabbaths each.

During these three years there were received by profession one, by

* Eunice Lockwood and Lucy Smith.

† In a recent communication Mr. Robinson says, "The Church was very small. At that period they were just beginning to look up. During the latter part of 1821 Mr. Peter J. H. Myers came among them and I have reason to think that was an important event in their history. His efforts probably conduced much to their growth and prosperity."

letter four. The Rev. John R. Coe, the first Pastor of the present Church, was installed July 17, 1822. He labored with great acceptance and usefulness till Sept. 1823. On the last day of that month it pleased the Head of the Church to remove him from the affections of his afflicted charge to his final reward. He died in the 24th year of his age. Under his labors there were added to the Church by profession 21, by letter 9—total 30. Up to this period there had been removed by death 6, by dismissal 2, leaving on the record the names of 40 members.

Rev. John Kennedy, the second Pastor, was installed in September 1824. He was a native of Ireland, of gentlemanly deportment, and a popular speaker. He was dismissed in February 1832, having sustained the Pastoral relation seven years and five months. During his ministry there were received into the Church by profession 102, by letter 29—total 130. Of this number 60 were received in 1831, the last year of his connection with the Church. There were removed during the same period by death, dismissal and suspension 31, leaving the total number in communion 146.

Mr. Kennedy was succeeded by Rev. Archibald Fleming, who commenced his ministerial labors in the Spring of 1832, and was dismissed in February 1837, but continued to supply the pulpit till the first of May following. Under his labors there were received into the Church by profession 32, by letter 32—total 64. During the same period there were removed by death 15, by dismissal 47, by suspension 2—total 64; leaving 146, the same number with which his ministry commenced. I return now to some other statistics connected with the early history of the congregation. We have a record of four infant baptisms administered by Mr. Robinson in 1821, and of 13 administered by Mr. Coe while he was Pastor of the Church. The record of Mr. Kennedy on this point is doubtless defective, as it embraces but six names—all of one date. 25 received infant baptism at the hands of Mr. Fleming. Of marriage ceremonies we have a record of three performed by Mr. Coe—of 54 by Mr. Kennedy, and of 44 by Mr. Fleming.

We come now to a period in the annals of the Church of so recent date that it can have little historical interest.

The present Pastor, in frail health and without experience, commenced his ministerial labors in this pulpit on the last Sabbath in June 1837, and was ordained to the Pastoral office the following November. The affectionate consideration with which he was received—the subsequent

favours which have made him so deep a debtor, and the general harmony which has characterized the ten years of his ministry now closed, bear witness to the forbearance, the indulgence, and the kind Christian principle of the Church and congregation. These are grateful thoughts that it would be pleasing to indulge, but we must return to our statistical abstract. Within the time now under review there have been received into the Church by profession 162, by letter 90—total 252. During the same period there have been removed by death 37, by dismissal 53, by suspension 6—total 96.

I will now add a brief summary. It will be 28 years on the 18th of September next since the Church was organized. The whole number of members received from the beginning is 499. As nearly as can now be ascertained* the whole number of members that have died since the organization of the Church is 68. There have been dismissed 115, and suspended 9—total 192. This number deducted from the total of admissions would leave our present membership 307. But besides those thus removed a few individuals at different periods have left and united with other Churches without a regular dismissal, and a number have removed from the place without letters and have not been heard from for the last ten years. Both these classes we have ceased to reckon as members, so that we now report but 273, and of these, 27 do not now reside in the place.† So that the actual number of resident members is reduced to 246, being less than one half of the whole number received from the beginning, and less by six than have been received within the last ten years. The largest accession in any one year was in 1838 when 85 were received. The average number added for the ten years past is about 25 for each year—the average of deaths nearly four, of dismissals over 5, which, with suspensions, make the average removals about ten each year.

We record during the same period 95 infant baptisms and 93 marriages, making a total, of which we have a record since the organization of the Church, 143 infant baptisms and 194 marriages.‡

We now glance at the other religious societies in this village. Of these the oldest is the Methodist, a class of whom was first gathered in 1821 or 1822. It consisted of 1 male and 4 female members, and from

* In some of our early minutes there is no separate record of deaths and dismissals.

† Some of these have changed their residence temporarily, others permanently.

‡ Of the marriages recorded a large number of course are without the limits of our own congregation.

the time of its formation they were regularly visited by circuit preachers. Their Church was erected in 1832, since which time a preacher has been stationed in the place. Their present membership is but little short of 100. The Episcopalians first held regular service here in 1834. The Church they now occupy was built in 1843. Their present number of communicants is about 50. They have had preaching with little intermission for the past 13 years. They first erected a Church in 1837, but it subsequently passed out of their hands, and in January 1847 was purchased by the Baptists. This last named society was organized in 1840, but has enjoyed little regular preaching till within the last year. Their present membership is 22, and their prospects are deemed encouraging.

The place has received either occasional or periodical visits from Romish priests for many years. These have become more frequent and regular as their adherents have increased. Their Church was erected in 1841. Their present membership I am not able to state.*

The total membership of the Churches in the village, exclusive of the Romanists, is not far from 415, probably not quite one sixth of the entire population.

This brief and imperfect sketch may well suggest a few reflections.

1st. The providence of God seems evidently to be elaborating some grand design of which our country is to be the theatre. This is illustrated in the history of our own place. But little more than a century since, the rude tenant of the primeval forest shot forth his light canoe on our waters, and our valleys and mountain sides echoed with the twang of his bowstring. Some now among us, in their childhood, have picked up the beads and trinkets which he left as the only mementos behind him. The name by which the aborigines called the junction of our stream and lake indicates the most important use of which they deemed these waters capable. That name was Kah-cho-quah-na and signifies a fishing ground.† Now that stream is driving its‡ mills,

* For several of the above statements I am indebted to the different clergymen of the place, each of whom kindly furnished some statistics of their respective Churches. I made enquiry of the Catholic Priest but he declined giving any information. I should judge they might have from 200 to 300 members.

† Literally, the place where dip fish.

‡ There is now a large Foundry and Machine shop—a Flouring and Plaster Mill—a Saw Mill—a Carpet Factory—an establishment for turning Axe Helves, Carriage Spokes, &c.—a Pencil Factory, and 2 or 3 Lathes—the machinery of all which is driven by water taken from the creek in a single flume. We have also two Steam Mills with one of which is connected a Sash Factory.

foundry and manufactories, and that lake is agitated by the rushing to and fro of Steamboats, and its bosom pressed with the burden of accumulating commerce* giving employment to a growing population, while adjacent hill sides feed their flocks and herds, and the valleys wave with agricultural products. This is but a miniature of what is transpiring on a scale of unparalleled grandeur throughout this vast country. Whither these mighty movements tend it is not ours fully to foresee, but we are bound to mark their progress and note the "signs of the times." How else shall we be fitted to fulfil our high destiny? No considerate man can pause at the point we now occupy and look backward a single century, and then gaze on the foreshadowed future, without feeling that God has laid on the men of this generation, especially in this land, responsibilities of no ordinary weight. The enginery of Divine Providence is working with unprecedented rapidity and power, and every living man is loudly called upon to take a stand and exert an influence for the good of his race. The destiny of generations to come is in a measure placed in the hands of those now living. Let us seek for grace and faith to meet our responsibilities and discharge our duties in a manner comporting with the age and the country in which we live.

2d. This narrative illustrates the connexion between prosperity and the support of gospel institutions. Vice is a great waster, and the individual who plunges into it is almost sure to fail of success in worldly pursuits. This is not less true of communities, and as the Bible and its institutions are the great bulwarks of virtue, they necessarily tend to promote public order and prosperity, and besides this, the blessing of Heaven is indispensable to success, even in the common business of life, and that blessing cannot be expected when the precepts of religion are neglected or despised. We accordingly find in the history of our own place a marked synchronism and correspondence in the establishment and progress of Christian churches and the growth and prosperity of the village. The same fact is illustrated in thousands of other places in our country. Those therefore who intelligently seek the public welfare and the advance of general prosperity will not neglect the house of worship or withhold support from the institutions of the gospel.

3d. We cannot fail to see in this sketch much to awaken our gratitude. To what ever point we look in our past history we should see

* There are in all 9 Steamboats now running on the lake and two others have been recently launched. The number of sail vessels, that regularly visit our harbor is 29. The whole number of boats on the Canal North of the Glen's Falls feeder is 450.

the hand of God shaping events. In privileges and blessings the present contrasts strongly with the past. We sit down in perfect quietude and safety without the remotest apprehension of alarm from an invading foe. We can have no just conception of the hardships and fears and sufferings of our early settlers. For about 19 years of the 39 that closed with 1783, this was the border ground of nations engaged in vigorous and destructive wars.* It passed successively into the hands of the French, English and Americans, changing masters not less than six times in that period, and was constantly exposed to the depredations of scouts, savage and civilized, but both barbarous. At a later period this very Church was occupied as quarters by an armed soldiery gathered for the work of slaughter.† These scenes of alarm and horror have long passed away and we here quietly worship the Prince of Peace with none to molest or make us afraid. Does not this fact call upon us for gratitude? Again we may well feel grateful for the improved health of the place. It is said that the mortality of troops stationed here during the war of the revolution was proverbially fearful. The bones of those who then perished, not in conflict, but by disease, have been repeatedly thrown up in making excavations in the north western portion of the village.‡

* "In 1744 war was declared between France and England and great preparations were made on both sides to carry it on with vigor. A similar spirit prevailed in their respective colonies in America. The country North of Albany was kept in a continual state of alarm by Indian Warriors, who ranged in small parties marking their course by conflagration and indiscriminate slaughter. In April 1748 preliminaries of peace were signed at Aux-la-Chapelle and hostilities soon after ceased. In 1753 the English and French extended their settlements in the colonies and each were anxious to secure the most eligible situations for trading houses and forts. Mutual complaints of aggression were soon followed by open acts of hostility. In 1755 an expedition was planned against *Crown Point*. In 1756 Niagara and *Crown Point* were the principal points of attack. In 1757 *Fort William Henry* on Lake George surrendered to the French. In 1758 Abercrombie with 15,000 men attacked *Ticonderoga*. After a contest of four hours he was compelled to return with the loss of nearly 2000 in killed and wounded. In 1759 Gen. Amherst took *Ticonderoga* and proceeded to *Crown Point*. In 1760 the French made a fruitless attempt to recover Quebec." [See Historical Collections of New York.] The first aggressive movement of the Americans in 1775 was made on this place and *Ticonderoga* 5 or 6 weeks before the battle of Bunker Hill, and peace was proclaimed in 1783.

† Militia drafts and volunteers collected to resist Provost when he was moving on Plattsburgh in 1814.

‡ The reputation of the place was so bad at the close of the war, as I have been told, that when the lands of Skeene were offered in the market no competitor would appear to bid and the whole 29,000 acres were struck off at the first offer of £14 10s. to an agent of the purchasers.

Even after the place began to assume some commercial importance its growth was much impeded by the unhealthfulness of the location ; but I think for the past ten years the mortality in the place has been less than the average throughout the country. A fact or two already stated may illustrate these remarks. During the first 4 years of the existence of the Church, with an average membership of 38, there were six deaths, being equal to one in 27 each year. During the five years of Mr. Fleming's ministry, with an average membership of 134, there were 15 deaths, being equal to one in 45 each year. For the last 10 years with an average membership of 256 there have been 37 deaths, being equal to one in 69 each year. The relative decrease of mortality in the Church has certainly been very great and makes a distinct call upon us for gratitude. If the diminution of deaths in the village has been at all in the same relative proportion, and I think it has, we certainly have strong reason to be grateful for the improved health of the place for the past ten years at least.*

But of all themes for grateful remembrance in this review none lay so strong a claim upon us as the rapid growth of moral and religious influence.† I have no time now, if I had ability, to sketch the feebleness, and trembling and many discouragements of those little bands that less than 30 years since ventured to rear their public altar for the service of the living God. How appropriately may they now set up their "Ebenezer, saying, hitherto hath the Lord helped us." The little one has become comparatively strong. The grain of mustard seed planted in a forbidding soil, has begun to assume the vigor and strength of a tree. But mere emotions of gratitude do not cancel the debt God's mercy lays us under. We should never forget that obligations keep pace with privileges, that we have girded on the armor and not put it off, and that "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed;" that we are called upon to be diligent, to be strong, to quit ourselves like men in the conflict against sin. if we would win the immortal prize and wear the victor's crown at the coming of the Lord Jesus.

* Since 1834 there has not been what would be properly termed a *prevailing* and *fatal* disease in the place. It would be by no means extraordinary if after so long an interval "The Angel of Death" should again be allowed to "spread his wing on the blast." Of the future, it is well that we cannot speak confidently.

† A Clergyman who preached in the east part of this town, I think as early as 1806 or 1807, once told me that he always dreaded to go down to "the landing," (then the common term of designation for this place.) for he seldom passed through the street without being assailed with jeers and insult. I have

Statistical Table of the Church from Sep^r, 1819 to June 1847.

Date.	Additions by		Remov'ls by			Total in Comm'u'n.	Infant Bapt'isms	Resident Members	
	Profes'u.	Letter.	D'th.	Dis'u.	Susp'n.				
1819	2	2				18			No Pastor.
1820	1	2							"
1821	0	2							"
1822	10	6							J. R. Coe.*
1823	11	3							"
1824	7	3							J. Kennedy
1825	3	5							"
1826	14	3							"
1827	1	3							"
1828	0	1							"
1829	1	3							"
1830	20	6							"
1831	55	5							"
Apr. 1, 1832						146		123	A. Fleming
" 1833	1	4	3	15		133	2	114	"
" 1834	8	3	4	14	1	125	3	100	"
" 1835		7	5	7	1	119	6	101	"
" 1836	21	9	1	2		146	5	123	"
" 1837	2	9	2	9		146			L. Kellogg.
" 1838		13		4		151	9		"
" 1839	72	13	4	3		229	3		"
" 1840	40	6	4	5		266	5		"
Oct. 1, 1841	24	3	5	9	1	273	11	224	"
" 1842	1	9	7	5	1	270	22		"
" 1843	22	2		8	2	284	4		"
" 1844		21	6	2		277	11	254	"
" 1845	3	9	6	7	1	275	10		"
Apr. 1, 1846		2	3	3		270	6		"
" 1847		4	1	4		269	14	246	"

passed the same street almost daily for 10 years and have uniformly been treated with a deference, to which as a man I had no claim—a deference bestowed for the same reason that once called forth jibes and sneers—namely, that I was a minister of the gospel.

* I have placed the names of the successive Pastors opposite the year *within* which they were settled.

5028

A SKETCH
OF THE
HISTORY OF WHITEHALL,

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS.

A DISCOURSE

DELIVERED ON THE 27TH OF JUNE, 1847.

By Rev. Lewis Kellogg.

BEING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MINISTRY IN THE PLACE.

WHITEHALL :
S. B. FAIRMAN, PRINTER, CHRONICLE OFFICE.
1847.

July 13 1877.





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Letter

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